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A COVERED SIFTER FOR SEPARATING INSECTS FROM HOST MATERIAL

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The examination in the laboratory of samples of raisins for the purpose of estimating the population of the raisin moth, Ephestia figulilella Greg., has presented difficulties, both because of the time consumed and on account of the high percentage of insects overlooked. The method finally evolved, described below, has greatly simplified the work.

A sheet-iron corn popper with sliding cover, commonly available in variety stores, is modified for use as a covered screening device. Nearly all of the lid and bottom are cut out, leaving one-half inch rims, and the openings are covered with wire cloth of any desired mesh, attached to the inside of the rims with liquid solder.

With the basket about one-half filled with stemmed raisins, the lid is closed and the sifter shaken while grasped by the handle and by the front end. The device is most efficient when turned at intervals so as to use the top and bottom screens alternately. Vigorous shaking for a few seconds dislodges and shakes out the insects onto a contrasting background where they may be readily separated from the fine debris. Repeated checks on this method of removal have shown from 94 to 100 percent efficiency.



